



BEFORE THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Advisory Opinion No. 06-01-001AO

An employee whose duties include working on land use issues asks whether she can speak at a land use seminar where the seminar sponsor will charge each participant a fee for attending. In addition, she asks whether she can sign a non-exclusive licensing agreement giving the sponsor permission to sell a copy of the educational materials she has prepared to each participant. The employee has stated that she will not accept any remuneration for her participation in the seminar. We conclude that the employee can participate in the seminar and sign the agreement so long as she does not disclose any confidential information through her participation in the seminar.

Section 19A-15(a) of the Ethics Law prohibits an employee from disclosing confidential information relating to or maintained by a County agency that is not available to the public. The employee may participate in the seminar, including preparing written materials, as long as she does not make use of any confidential information in the process. There is no outside employment issue because the employee will not be accepting any pay for her participation in the seminar.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard N. Reback".

February 7, 2006

Date

Richard N. Reback, Chair